

**From:** dgriffith@gdhco.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/15/02 2:47pm  
**Subject:** microsoft settlement

I read this article that gave this email address for opinions on the Microsoft settlement. First, although irrelevant at this point, I have to say I think Microsoft has contributed more to the growth and productivity of this country than anyone else that comes to mind. With the development of Window concept, it has made the operation of personal computers available to non-computer people. Thus it has attributed greatly in making computers user friendly enough that ordinary people can use them. As a result of this development, Windows became the software of choice. I remember when everytime you bought something for the computer you had to see if it was "IBM compatable" or not. No one could focus on software development because of compatability problems. Windows eliminated that and almost all software developers worked toward making their software compatable with Windows. Thus Windows became the universal software.

I always thought the DOJ's involvement was more for the benefit of competitors than consumers. In all industries, inferior competitors complain about being at a disadvantage. In the long run, the antitrust case against Microsoft, in my opinion, had more potential to hurt consumers than to help them.

I'm not a computer geek and I can barely operate one without assistance but windows has made my life easier when it does come to using a computer.

My mother is a librarian and has been able to obtain free hardware and software from a Microsoft grant. Many people in Greenup County Kentucky has benefited by the generosity of Microsoft. Their grant was for \$50,000. Anyone in Greenup County can come to the library and use the computers and internet. One lady downloaded a picture of her new grandchild or great grandchild (I forgot which) from a website in California. They offered internet training sessions for senior citizens. None of this possible without Microsoft. I don't see the library getting anything from Walmart (the world's largest retailer and likely the largest antitrust violator in this country!!)

Yes I think the settlement with Microsoft is acceptable and the DOJ should agree to settle the case and move on to a more important use of our tax dollars. The State AG's that are bucking the settlement, I think, want cash money for their States so they can further their individual causes.

If you have any questions concerning my position you can contact me at the email address on this correspondence.